

To. Tract

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A
L E T T E R
FROM
William Penn
Proprietary and Governour of
P E N N S Y L V A N I A
In America,
TO THE
C O M M I T T E E
OF THE
Free Society of Traders
of that Province, residing in London.

CONTAINING

A General Description of the said *Province*, its *Soil, Air, Water, Seasons* and *Produce*, both Natural and Artificial, and the good Encrease thereof.

Of the *Natives* or *Aborigines*, their *Language, Customs* and *Manners, Diet, Houses* or *Wigwams, Liberality, easie way of Living, Physick, Burial, Religion, Sacrifices* and *Ceremonies, Festivals, Government*, and their order in *Council* upon *Treaties* for *Land, &c.* their *Justice* upon *Evil Doers*.

Of the *first Planters, the Dutch, &c.* and the *present Condition* and *Settlement* of the said *Province*, and *Courts of Justice, &c.*

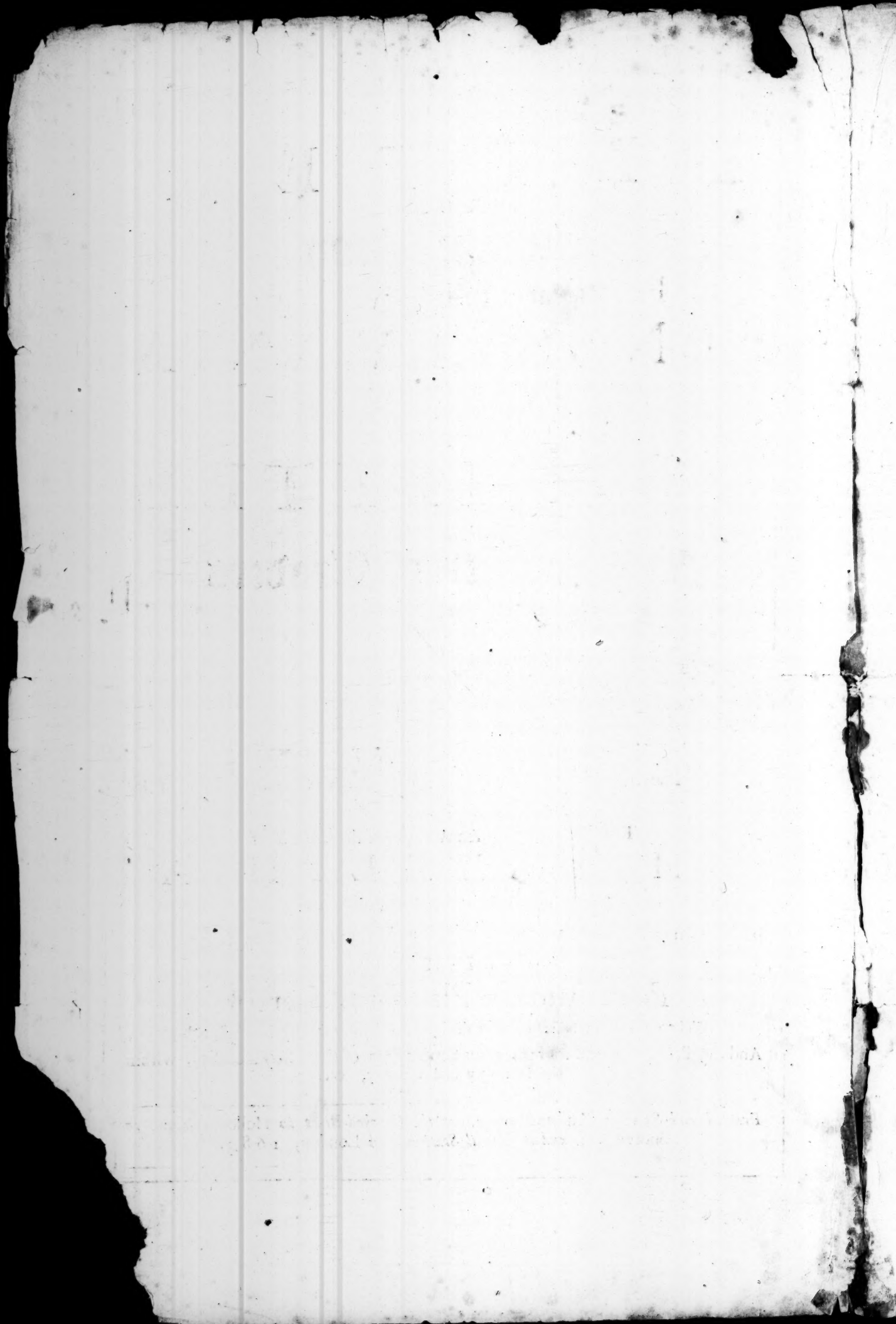
To which is added, An Account of the CITY of
P H I L A D E L P H I A
Newly laid out.

Its Scituation between two Navigable Rivers, *Delaware* and *Skulkill*,
WITH A
Portraiture or Plat-form thereof,

Wherein the Purchasers Lots are distinguished by certain Numbers inserted.

And the Prosperous and Advantagious Settlements of the *Society* aforesaid, within the said City and Country, &c.

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A Letter from William Penn, Proprietary and Governour of PENNSYLVANIA, &c.



My Kind Friends;

THE Kindness of yours by the Ship *Thomas and Anne*, doth much oblige me. I perceive the Interest you take in my *Health and Reputation*, and the *prosperous Beginnings* of this *Province*, which you are so kind as to think may much depend upon them. In return of which, I have sent you a long Letter, and yet containing as brief an Account of *My self*, and the *Affairs* of this *Province*, as I have been able to make.

In the first place, I take notice of the *News* you sent me, whereby I find some Persons have had so little Wit, and so much Malice, as to report my *Death*, and to mend the matter, *dead a Jesuit* too. One might have reasonably hop'd, that this *Distance*, like *Death*, would have been a protection against *Spice and Envy*; and indeed, *Absence* being a kind of *Death*, ought alike to secure the *Name* of the *Absent* as the *Dead*; because they are equally unable as such to defend themselves: But they that intend *Mischief*, do not use to follow *good Rules* to effect it. However, to the great Sorrow and Shame of the *Inventors*, I am still *Alive*, and *No Jesuit*, and I thank God, *very well*: And without Injustice to the Authors of this, I may venture to infer, That they that wilfully and falsely Report, would have been glad it had been so. But I perceive, many *Idle Stories* have been *Invented* since my Departure from *England*, which perhaps at this time are no more *Alive*, than I am *Dead*.

But if I have been *Unkindly* used by some I left behind me, I found *Love and Respect* enough where I came; an universal kind *Welcome*, every sort in their way. For here are some of several *Nations*, as well as divers *Judgments*: Nor were the *Natives* wanting in this, for their *Kings, Queens* and *Great Men* both visited and presented me; to whom I made suitable Returns, &c.

For the *PROVINCE*, the general Condition of it take as followeth.

I. The Country itself in its *Soyl, Air, Water, Seasons* and *Produce* both *Natural* and *Artificial* is not to be despised. The *Land* containeth divers sorts of *Earth*, as *Sand Yellow* and *Black*, *Poor* and *Rich*: also *Gravel* both *Loomy* and *Dusty*; and in some places a *fast fat Earth*, like to our best *Vales* in *England*, especially by *Inland-Brooks* and *Rivers*, God in his *Wisdom* having ordered it so, that the *Advantages* of the Country are divided, the *Back-Lands* being generally *three* to one *Richer* than those that lie by *Navigable Waters*. We have much of another *Soyl*, and that is a *black Hazel Mould*, upon a *Stony* or *Rocky* bottom.

II. The *Air* is sweet and clear, the *Heavens* serene, like the *South-parts* of *France*, rarely *Overcast*; and as the *Woods* come by numbers of People to be more clear'd, that it self will *Refine*.

III. The *Waters* are generally good, for the *Rivers* and *Brooks* have mostly *Gravel* and *Stony Bottoms*, and in Number hardly credible. We have also *Mineral Waters*, that operate in the same manner with *Barnet* and *North-hall*, not two Miles from *Philadelphia*.

IV. For the *Seasons* of the Year, having by God's goodness now lived over the *Coldest* and *Hottest*, that the *Oldest Liver* in the *Province* can remember, I can say something to an *English* Understanding.

1st, Of the *Fall*, for then I came in: I found it from the 24th of *October*, to the beginning of *December*, as we have it usually in *England* in *September*, or rather like an *English mild Spring*. From *December* to the beginning of the Moneth called *March*, we had sharp *Frosty Weather*; not foul, thick, black Weather, as our *North-East Winds* bring with them in *England*; but a Skie as clear as in *Summer*, and the Air dry, cold, piercing and hungry; yet I remember not, that I wore more *Clothes* than in *England*. The reason of this *Cold* is given from the great *Lakes* that are fed by the *Fountains* of *Canada*. The *Winter* before was as mild, scarce any *Ice* at all; while this for a few dayes Froze up our great River *Delaware*. From that Moneth to the Moneth called *June*, we enjoy'd a sweet *Spring*, no *Gusts*, but gentle *Showers*, and a fine Skie. Yet this I observe, that the *Winds* here as there, are more *Inconstant* *Spring* and *Fall*, upon that turn of Nature, than in *Summer* or *Winter*. From thence to this present Moneth, which endeth the *Summer* (commonly speaking) we have had extraordinary *Heats* yet mitigated sometimes by *Cool Breezes*. The Wind that ruleth the *Summer-season*, is the

South-West; but Spring, Fall and Winter, 'tis rare to want the wholesome North Wester seven dayes together: And what-ever Mists, Fogs or Vapours foul the Heavens by Easterly or Southerly Winds, in two Hours time are blown away; the one is alwayes followed by the other: A Remedy that seems to have a peculiar Providence in it to the Inhabitants; the multitude of Trees, yet standing, being liable to retain Mists and Vapours, and yet not one quarter so thick as I expected.

V. The Natural Produce of the Country, of Vegetables, is Trees, Fruits, Plants, Flowers. The Trees of most note are, the black Walnut, Cedar, Cypress, Chestnut, Poplar, Gumwood, Hickory, Sassafras, Ash, Beech and Oak of divers sorts, as Red, White and Black; Spanish Chestnut and Swamp, the most durable of all: of All which there is plenty for the use of man.

The Fruits that I find in the Woods, are the White and Black Mulberry, Chestnut, Wallnut, Plumbs, Strawberries, Cranberries, Huckleberries and Grapes of divers sorts. The great Red Grape (now ripe) called by Ignorance, the Fox-Grape (because of the Relish it hath with unskillful Palates) is in it self an extraordinary Grape, and by Art doubtless may be Cultivated to an excellent Wine, if not so sweet, yet little inferior to the *Frontinack*, as it is not much unlike in taste, Riddiness set aside, which in such things, as well as Mankind, differs the case much. There is a white kind of *Muskedel*, and a little black Grape, like the cluster-Grape of England, not yet so ripe as the other; but they tell me, when Ripe, sweeter, and that they only want skillful *Vineros* to make good use of them: I intend to venture on it with my French man this season, who shews some knowledge in those things. Here are also Peaches, and very good, and in great quantities, not an Indian Plantation without them; but whether naturally here at first, I know not, however one may have them by Bushels for little; they make a pleasant Drink, and I think not inferior to any Peach you have in England, except the true *Newington*. 'Tis disputable with me, whether it be best to fall to *Fining* the Fruits of the Country, especially the Grapes, by the care and skill of Art, or send for foreign Stems and Sets, already good and approved. It seems most reasonable to believe, that not only a thing groweth best, where it naturally grows; but will hardly be equalled by another Species of the same kind, that doth not naturally grow there. But to solve the doubt, I intend, if God give me Life, to try both, and hope the consequence will be as good Wine as any European Countries of the same Latitude do yield.

VI. The Artificial Produce of the Country, is Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Pease, Beans, Squashes, Pumpkins, Water-Melons, Mus-Melons, and all Herbs and Roots that our Gardens in England usually bring forth.

Note, that Edward Jones, Son-in-Law to Thomas Wynn, living on the *Schultil*, had with ordinary Cultivation for one acre of English Barley, seventy Stalks and Ears of Barley; And 'tis common in this Country from one Bushel sown, to reap forty, often fifty, and sometimes sixty. And three Pecks of Wheat sown an Acre here.

VII. Of living Creatures; Fish, Fowl, and the Beasts of the Woods, here are divers sorts, some for Food and Profit, and some for Profit only: For Food as well as Profit, the Elk, as big as a small Ox, Deer bigger than ours, Beaver, Raccoon, Rabbits, Squirrels, and some eat young Bear, and commend it. Of Fowl of the Land, there is the Turkey (Forty and Fifty Pound weight) which is very great; Pheasants, Heath-Birds, Pidgeons and Partridges in abundance. Of the Water, the

Swan, Goose, white and gray, Brants, Ducks, Teal, also the Snipe and Curloe, and that in great Numbers; but the Duck and Teal excel, nor so good have I ever eat in other Countries. Of Fish, there is the Sturgeon, Herring, Rock, Shad, Cathead, Sheephead, Ele, Smelt, Perch, Roach; and in Inland Rivers, Trout, some say Salmon, above the Falls. Of Shellfish, we have Oysters, Crabbs, Cockles, Concks and Mussels; some Oysters six Inches long, and one sort of Cockles as big as the Stewing Oysters, they make a rich Broth. The Creatures for Profit only by Skin or Fur, and that are natural to these parts, are the Wild Cat, Panther, Otter, Wolf, Fox, Fisher, Minx, Musk-Rat; and of the Water, the Whale for Oyl, of which we have good store, and two Companies of Whalers, whose Boats are built, will soon begin their Work, which hath the appearance of a considerable Improvement. To say nothing of our reasonable Hopes of good Cod in the Bay.

VIII. We have no want of Horses, and some are very good and shapely enough; two Ships have been freighted to Barbadoes with Horses and Pipe-Staves, since my coming in. Here is also Plenty of Cow-Cattle, and some Sheep; the People Plow mostly with Oxen.

IX. There are divers Plants that not only the Indians tell us, but we have had occasion to prove by Smellings, Burnings, Cuts, &c. that they are of great Virtue, suddenly curing the Patient: and for smell, I have observed several, especially one, the wild Mistle; the other I know not what to call, but are most fragrant.

X. The Woods are adorned with lovely Flowers, for colour, greatness, figure and variety: I have seen the Gardens of London best stored with that sort of Beauty, but think they may be improved by our Woods: I have sent a few to a Person of Quality this Year for a tryal.

Thus much of the Country, next of the Natives or Aborigines.

XI. The

XI. The *NATIVES* I shall consider in their *Persons, Language, Manners, Religion* and *Government*, with my fence of their *Original*. For their *Persons*, they are generally tall, streight, wellbuilt, and of singular Proportion; they tread strong and clever, and mostly walk with a lofty Chin: Of Complexion, *Black*, but by design, as the *Gypsies* in *England*: They grease themselves with Bears-fat clarified, and using no defence against *Sun* or *Weather*, their skins must needs be swarthy: Their *Eye* is little and black, not unlike a straight-look't *Jew*: The thick *Lip* and flat *Nose*, so frequent with the *East-Indians* and *Blacks*, are not common to them; for I have seen as comely *European-like* faces among them of both, as on your side the *Sea*; and truly an *Italian* Complexion hath not much more of the *White*, and the *Noses* of several of them have as much of the *Roman*.

XII. Their *Language* is lofty, yet narrow, but like the *Hebrew*; in Signification full, like short-hand in writing; one word serveth in the place of three, and the rest are supplied by the Understanding of the Hearer: Imperfect in their *Tenses*, wanting in their *Moods, Participles, Adverbs, Conjunctions, Interjections*: I have made it my business to understand it, that I might not want an Interpreter on any occasion: And I must say, that I know not a Language spoken in *Europe*, that hath words of more sweetness or greatness, in *Accent* and *Emphasis*, than theirs; for Instance, *Otorockon*, *Rancocas*, *Dixton*, *Shakamaron*, *Poquesim*, all which are names of Places, and have Grandeur in them: Of words of Sweetness, *Anna*, is *Mother*, *Ilamus*, a *Brother*, *Netap*, *Friend*, *usque oret*, very good; *pone*, *Bread*, *metle*, eat, *matta*, *no*, *hatta*, to have, *pavo*, to come; *Sepassen*, *Passion*, the Names of Places; *Camane*, *Secane*, *Denanse*, *Secatereus*, are the Names of Persons. If one ask them for any thing they have not, they will answer, *matta ne hatta*, which to translate is, *not I have*, instead of *I have not*.

XIII. Of their *Customs* and *Manners* there is much to be said; I will begin with *Children*. So soon as they are born, they wash them in *Water*, and while very young, and in cold *Weather* to chule, they Plunge them in the *Rivers* to harden and embolden them. Having wrapt them in a Clout, they lay them on a straight thin Board, a little more than the length and breadth of the Child, and swaddle it fast upon the Board to make it straight; wherefore all *Indians* have flat Heads; and thus they carry them at their Backs. The Children will go very young, at nine Months commonly; they wear only a small Clout round their Waste, till they are big; if Boys, they go a Filling till ripe for the Woods, which is about Fifteen; then they Hunt, and after having given some Proofs of their Manhood, by a good return of *Skins*, they may Marry, else it is a shame to think of a Wife. The Girls stay with their Mothers, and help to hoe the Ground, plant Corn and carry Burthens; and they do well to use them to that Young, they must do when they are Old; for the Wives are the true Servants of their Husbands: otherwise the Men are very affectionate to them.

XIV. When the Young Women are fit for Marriage, they wear something upon their Heads for an Advertisement, but so as their Faces are hardly to be seen, but when they please: The Age they Marry at, if Women, is about thirteen and fourteen; if Men, seventeen and eighteen; they are rarely elder.

XV. Their Houses are Mats, or Barks of Trees set on Poles, in the fashion of an *English Barn*, but out of the power of the Winds, for they are hardly higher than a Man; they lie on Reeds or Grass. In Travel they lodge in the Woods about a great Fire, with the Mantle of Duffills they wear by day, wrapt about them, and a few Boughs stuck round them.

XVI. Their Diet is *Maze*, or *Indian Corn*, divers ways prepared; sometimes Roasted in the Ashes, sometimes beaten and Boyled with Water, which they call *Homine*; they also make Cakes, not unpleasant to eat: They have likewise several sorts of Beans and Pease that are good Nourishment; and the Woods and Rivers are their Larder.

XVII. If an *European* comes to see them, or calls for Lodging at their House or Wigwam, they give him the best place and first cut. If they come to visit us, they salute us with an *Itah*, which is as much as to say, Good be to you, and set them down, which is mostly on the Ground, close to their Heels, their Legs upright; may be they speak not a word more, but observe all Passages: If you give them any thing to eat or drink, well, for they will not ask; and be it little or much, if it be with Kindness, they are well pleased, else they go away sullen, but say nothing.

XVIII. They are great Concealers of their own *Resentments*; brought to it, I believe, by the *Revenge* that hath been practised among them; in either of these, they are not exceeded by the *Italians*. A Tragical Instance fell out since I came into the Country; A King's Daughter thinking her self slighted by her Husband, in suffering another Woman to lie down between them; rose up, went out, pluck't a Root out of the Ground, and ate it, upon which she immediately dyed; and for which, last Week he made an Offering to her Kindred for Attonement and liberty of Marriage; as two others did to the Kindred of their Wives, that dyed a natural Death: For

till *Widowers* have done so, they must not *marry* again. Some of the *young Women* are said to take undue liberty before *Marriage* for a *Portion*; but when *married*, chaste; when with *Child*, they know their *Husbands* no more, till delivered; and during their *Moneth*, they touch no *Meat*; they eat, but with a *Stick*, lest they should defile it; nor do their *Husbands* frequent them, till that time be expired.

XIX. But in *Liberality* they excell, nothing is too good for their friend; give them a *fine Gun*, *Coat*, or other thing, it may pass *twenty hands*, before it sticks; *light of heart*, *strong Affections*, but soon spent; the most *merry* Creatures that live, *Feast* and *Dance* perpetually; they never have much, nor want much: *Wealth* circulateth like the *Blood*, all parts partake; and though none shall want what another hath, yet exact *Observers of Property*. Some *Kings* have sold, others presented me with several *parcels of Land*; the *Pay* or *Presents* I made them, were not hoarded by the particular Owners, but the *neighbouring Kings* and their *Clans* being present when the Goods were brought out, the Parties chiefly concerned consulted, what and to whom they should give them? To every *King* then, by the hands of a Person for that work appointed, is a proportion sent, so sorted and folded, and with that *Gravity*, that is admirable. Then the *King* sub-divideth it in like manner among his *Dependents*, they hardly leaving themselves an *Equal share* with one of their *Subjects*: and be it on such occasions, at *Festivals*, or at their common *Meals*, the *Kings* distribute, and to themselves last. They care for little, because they want but little; and the Reason is, a little contents them: In this they are sufficiently revenged on us; if they are ignorant of our *Pleasures*, they are also free from our *Pains*. They are not disquieted with *Bills of Lading* and *Exchange*, nor perplexed with *Chancery-Suits* and *Exchequer-Reckonings*. We sweat and toil to live; their pleasure feeds them, I mean, their *Hunting*, *Fishing* and *Fowling*, and this Table is spread every where; they eat twice a day, Morning and Evening; their *Seats* and *Table* are the *Ground*. Since the *Europeans* came into these parts, they are grown great lovers of *strong Liquors*, *Rum* especially, and for it exchange the richest of their *Skins* and *Furs*: If they are heated with *Liquors*, they are restless till they have enough to sleep; that is their cry, *Some more, and I will go to sleep*; but when *Drunk*, one of the most wretchedst *Spektacles* in the *World*.

XX. In *Sickness* impatient to be cured, and for it give any thing, especially for their *Children*, to whom they are extremely natural; they drink at those times a *Teran* or *Decoction* of some *Roots* in *spring Water*; and if they eat any *flesh*, it must be of the *Female* of any *Creature*: If they dye, they bury them with their *Apparel*, be they *Men* or *Women*, and the nearest of *Kin* fling in something precious with them, as a token of their *Love*: Their *Mourning* is *blacking* of their faces, which they continue for a year: They are choice of the *Graves* of their *Dead*; so least they should be lost by time, and fall to common use, they pick off the *Grass* that grows upon them, and heap up the fallen *Earth* with great care and exactness.

XXI. These poor People are under a dark Night in things relating to *Religion*, to be sure, the *Tradition* of it; yet they believe a *God* and *Immortality*, without the help of *Metaphysics*; for they say, *There is a great King* that made them, who dwells in a *glorious Country* to the *Southward* of them, and that the *Souls* of the good shall go thither, where they shall live again. Their *Worship* consists of two parts, *Sacrifice* and *Cantico*. Their *Sacrifice* is their first *Fruits*; the first and fattest *Buck* they kill, goeth to the fire, where he is all burnt with a *Mournful Dirge* of him that performeth the *Ceremony*, but with such marvellous *Fervency* and *Labour of Body*, that he will even sweat to a foam. The other part is their *Cantico*, performed by round-Dances, sometimes *Words*, sometimes *Songs*, then *Shouts*, two being in the middle that begin, and by *Singing* and *Drumming* on a *Board* direct the *Chorus*: Their *Postures* in the *Dance* are very *Antick* and differing, but all keep measure. This is done with equal *Earnestness* and *Labour*, but great appearance of *Joy*. In the *Fall*, when the *Corn* cometh in, they begin to *feast* one another; there have been two great *Festivals* already, to which all come that will: I was at one my self; their *Entertainment* was a *green Seat* by a *Spring*, under some *shady Trees*, and twenty *Bucks*, with hot *Cakes* of new *Corn*, both *Wheat* and *Beans*, which they make up in a square form, in the leaves of the *Stem*, and bake them in the *Ashes*: And after that they fell to *Dance*. But they that go, must carry a small *Present* in their *Money*, it may be *six Pence*, which is made of the *Bone* of a *Fish*; the black is with them as *Gold*, the white, *Silver*; they call it all *Wampum*.

XXII. Their *Government* is by *Kings*, which they call *Sachema*, and those by *Succession*, but always of the *Mothers side*; for Instance, the *Children* of him that is now *King*, will not succeed, but his *Brother* by the *Mother*, or the *Children* of his *Sister*, whose *Sons* (and after them the *Children* of her *Daughters*) will reign; for no *Woman* inherits; the Reason they render for this way of *Descent*, is, that their *Issue* may not be *spurious*.

XXIII. Every *King* hath his *Council*, and that consists of all the *Old* and *Wise men* of his *Nation*, which perhaps is two hundred People: nothing of *Moment* is undertaken, be it *War*, *Peace*, *Selling* of *Land* or *Traffick*, without advising with them; and which is more, with the *Young Men*

too. 'Tis admirable to consider, how *Powerful* the *Kings* are, and yet how they move by the *Breath* of their *People*. I have had occasion to be in *Council* with them upon *Treaties* for *Land*, and to adjust the terms of *Trade*; their *Order* is thus: The *King* sits in the middle of an half *Moon*, and hath his *Council*, the *Old* and *Wise* on each hand; behind them, or at a little distance, sit the younger *Fry*, in the same figure. Having consulted and resolved their business, the *King* ordered one of them to speak to me; he stood up, came to me, and in the Name of his *King* saluted me, then took me by the hand, and told me, *That he was ordered by his King to speak to me, and that now it was not he, but the King that spoke, because what he should say, was the King's mind.* He first pray'd me, *To excuse them that they had not complied with me the last time; he feared, there might be some fault in the Interpreter, being neither Indian nor English; besides, it was the Indian Custom to deliberate, and take up much time in Council, before they resolve; and that if the Young People and Owners of the Land had been as ready as he, I had not met with so much delay.* Having thus introduced his matter, he fell to the *Bounds* of the *Land* they had agreed to dispose of, and the *Price*, (which now is little and dear, that which would have bought twenty *Miles*, not buying now two.) During the time that this Person spoke, not a man of them was observed to whisper or smile; the *Old* *Grave*, the *Young* *Reverend* in their *Deportment*; they do speak little, but *seriously*, and with *Elegancy*: I have never seen more natural *Sagacity*, considering them without the help, (I was a going to say, the *spoil*) of *Tradition*; and he will deserve the Name of *Wise*, that *Out-wits* them in any *Treaty* about a thing they understand. When the *Purchase* was agreed, great *Promises* pass between us of *Kindness* and good *Neighbourhood*, and that the *Indians* and *English* must live in *Love*, as long as the *Sun* gives light. Which done, another made a *Speech* to the *Indians*, in the Name of all the *Sachamakers* or *Kings*, first to tell them what was done; next, to charge and command them, *To Love the Christians, and particularly live in Peace with me, and the People under my Government: That many Governours had been in the River, but that no Governour had come himself to live and stay here before; and having now such a one that had treated them well, they should never do him or his any wrong.* At every sentence of which they shouted, and said, *Amen*, in their way.

XXIV. The *Justice* they have is *Pecuniary*: In case of any *Wrong* or evil *Fact*, be it *Murder* it self, they *Atton* by *Feasts* and *Presents* of their *Wampon*, which is proportioned to the quality of the *Offence* or *Person* injured, or of the *Sex* they are of: for in case they kill a *Woman*, they pay double, and the Reason they render, is, *That she breedeth Children, which Men cannot do.* 'Tis rare that they fall out, if *Sober*; and if *Drunk*, they forgive it, saying, *It was the Drink, and not the Man, that abused them.*

XXV. We have agreed, that in all *Differences* between us, *Six* of each side shall end the matter: Don't abuse them, but let them have *Justice*, and you win them: The worst is, that they are the worse for the *Christians*, who have propagated their *Vices*, and yielded them *Tradition* for ill, and not for good things. But as low an *Ebb* as they are at, and as glorious as their Condition looks, the *Christians* have not out-liv'd their *figs* with all their *Pretensions* to an higher *Manifestation*: What good then might not a good *People* graft, where there is so distinct a *Knowledge* left between Good and Evil? I beseech God to incline the *Hearts* of all that come into these parts, to out-live the *Knowledge* of the *Natives*, by a *fixt* *Obedience* to their greater *Knowledge* of the *Will* of God; for it were miserable indeed for us to fall under the just censure of the poor *Indian* Conscience, while we make profession of things so far transcending.

XXVI. For their *Original*, I am ready to believe them of the *Jewish Race*, I mean, of the stock of the *Ten Tribes*, and that for the following Reasons; first, They were to go to a *Land* not planted or known, which to be sure *Asia* and *Africa* were, if not *Europe*; and he that intended that extraordinary Judgment upon them, might make the *Passage* not uneasy to them, as it is not impossible in it self, from the *Easter-most* parts of *Asia*, to the *Wester-most* of *America*. In the next place, I find them of like *Countenance*, and their *Children* of so lively *Resemblance*, that a man would think himself in *Dukes-place* or *Berry-street* in *London*, when he seeth them. But this is not all, they agree in *Rites*, they reckon by *Moons*; they offer their first *Fruits*, they have a kind of *Feast* of *Tabernacles*; they are said to lay their *Altar* upon twelve *Stones*; their *Mourning* a year, *Customs* of *Women*, with many things that do not now occur.

So much for the *Natives*, next the *Old Planters* will be considered in this Relation, before I come to our *Colony*, and the Concerns of it.

XXVII. The first *Planters* in these parts were the *Dutch*, and soon after them the *Sweeds* and *Finns*. The *Dutch* applied themselves to *Traffick*, the *Sweeds* and *Finns* to *Husbandry*. There were some *Disputes* between them some years, the *Dutch* looking upon them as *Intruders* upon their *Purchase* and *Possession*, which was finally ended in the *Surrender* made by *John Rixcing*, the *Sweeds* *Governour*, to *Peter Styresant*, *Governour* for the *States* of *Holland*, Anno 1655.

XXVIII. The *Dutch* inhabit mostly those parts of the *Province*, that lie upon or near to the *Bay*, and the *Sweeds* the *Freshes* of the *River Delaware*. There is no need of giving any Description

scription of them, who are better known there than here; but they are a plain, strong, industrious People, yet have made no great progress in Culture or propagation of fruit-Trees, as if they desired rather to have enough, than Plenty or Traffick. But I presume, the Indians made them the more careless, by furnishing them with the means of Profit, to wit, Skins and Furs, for Rum, and such strong Liquors. They kindly received me, as well as the English, who were few, before the People concerned with me came among them: I must needs commend their Respect to Authority, and kind Behaviour to the English; they do not degenerate from the Old friendship between both Kingdoms. As they are People proper and strong of Body, so they have fine Children, and almost every house full; rare to find one of them without three or four Boys, and as many Girls; some six, seven and eight Sons: And I must do them that right, I see few Young men more sober and laborious.

XXIX. The Dutch have a Meeting-place for Religious Worship at New-Castle, and the Swedes, three, one at Christina, one at Tenacum, and one at Wicoco, within half a Mile of this Town.

XXX. There rests, that I speak of the Condition we are in, and what Settlement we have made, in which I will be as short as I can; for I fear, and not without reason, that I have tryed your Patience with this long Story. The Country lieth bounded on the East, by the River and Bay of Delaware, and Eastern Sea; it hath the Advantage of many Creeks or Rivers rather, that run into the main River or Bay; some Navigable for great Ships, some for small Craft: Those of most Eminency are Christina, Brandywine, Skilpot and Skulkill; any one of which have room to lay up the Royal Navy of England, there being from four to eight Fathom Water.

XXXI. The lesser Creeks or Rivers, yet convenient for Sloops and Ketches of good Burthen, are Lewis, Mispillion, Cedar, Dover, Cranbrook, Fevershan, and Georges below, and Chichester, Chester, Tonawany, Perumapecka, Portnessin, Neshimenek and Pennberry in the Freshes; many lesser that admit Boats and Shallops. Our People are mostly settled upon the upper Rivers, which are pleasant and sweet, and generally bounded with good Land. The Planted part of the Province and Territories is cast into six Counties, Philadelphia, Buckingham, Chester, New-castle, Kent and Sussex, containing about Four Thousand Souls. Two General Assemblies have been held, and with such Concord and Dispatch, that they sat but three Weeks, and at least seventy Laws were past without one Dissent in any material thing. But of this more hereafter, being yet Raw and New in our Geer: However, I cannot forget their singular Respect to me in this Infancy of things, who by their own private Expences so early consider'd Mine for the Publick, as to present me with an Impost upon certain Goods Imported and Exported: Which after my Acknowledgements of their Affection, I did as freely Remit to the Province and the Traders to it. And for the well Government of the said Counties, Courts of Justice are established in every County, with proper Officers, as Justices, Sheriffs, Clerks, Constables, &c. which Courts are held every two Moneths. But to prevent Law-Suits, there are three Peace-makers chosen by each County Court, in the nature of common Arbitrators, to hear and end Differences betwixt man and man; and Spring and Fall there is an Orphan's Court in each County, to inspect and regulate the Affairs of Orphans and Widows.

XXXII. Philadelphia, the Expectation of those that are concern'd in this Province, is at last laid out to the great Content of those here, that are any wayes Interested therein: The Situation is a Neck of Land, and lieth between two Navigable Rivers, Delaware and Skulkill, whereby it hath two Fronts upon the Water, each a Mile, and two from River to River. Delaware is a glorious River, but the Skulkill being an hundred Miles Boatable above the Falls, and its Course North-East toward the Fountain of Susquahannah (that tends to the Heart of the Province, and both sides our own) it is like to be a great part of the Settlement of this Age. I say little of the Town it self, because a PLAT-FORM will be shewn you by my Agent, in which those who are Purchasers of me, will find their Names and Interest: But this I will say for the good Providence of God, that of all the many Places I have seen in the World, I remember not one better seated; so that it seems to me to have been appointed for a Town, whether we regard the Rivers, or the conveniency of the Coves, Docks, Springs, the softness and soundness of the Land and the Air, held by the People of these parts to be very good. It is advanced within less than a Year to about four Score Houses and Cottages, such as they are, where Merchants and Handicrafts are following their Vocations as fast as they can, while the Country-men are close at their Farms: Some of them got a little Winter-Corn in the Ground last Season, and the generality have had a handsom Summer-Crop, and are preparing for their Winter-Corn. They reaped their Barley this Year in the Moneth called May; the Wheat in the Moneth following; so that there is time in these parts for another Crop of divers Things before the Winter Season. We are daily in hopes of Shipping to add to our Number; for blessed be God, here is both Room and Accommodation for them; the Stories of our Necessity, being

being either the *Fear* of our *Friends*, or the *Scars-Crows* of our *Enemies*; for the greatest hardship we have suffered, hath been *Salt-Meat*, which by *Fowl* in *Winter*, and *Fish* in *Summer*, together with some *Poultry*, *Lamb*, *Mutton*, *Veal*, and plenty of *Venison* the best part of the year, hath been made very palatable. I bless God, I am fully satisfied with the *Country* and *Entertainments* I can get in it; for I find that particular *Content* which hath always attended me, where God in his Providence hath made it my place and service to reside. You cannot imagin, my *Station* can be at present free of more than ordinary *business*, and as such, I may say, *It is a troublesome Work*; but the *Method* things are putting in, will facilitate the Charge, and give an easier Motion to the *Administration of Affairs*. However, as it is some mens Duty to *plow*, some to *sow*, some to *water*, and some to *reap*; so it is the *Wisdom* as well as *Duty* of a man, to yield to the mind of *Providence*, and chearfully, as well as carefully imbrace and follow the Guidance of it.

XXXIII. For your particular Concern, I might entirely refer you to the Letters of the *President* of the *Society*; but this I will venture to say, Your *Provincial Settlements* both within and without the *Town*, for *Scituation* and *Soil*, are without Exception: Your *City-Lot* is an *whole Street*, and one side of a *Street*, from *River* to *River*, containing near *one hundred Acres*, not easily valued, which is besides your *four hundred Acres* in the *City-Liberties*, part of your *twenty thousand Acres* in the *Country*. Your *Tannery* hath such plenty of *Bark*, the *Saw-Mill* for *Timber*, the place of the *Glass-house* so conveniently posted for *Water-carriage*, the *City-Lot* for a *Dock*, and the *Whalery* for a sound and fruitful *Bank*, and the *Town-Lewis* by it to help your *People*, that by Gods blessing the Affairs of the *Society* will naturally grow in their *Reputation* and *Profit*. I am sure, I have not turned my back upon any *Offer* that tended to its *Prosperity*; and though I am ill at *Projects*, I have sometimes put in for a share with her *Officers*, to countenance and advance her *Interest*. You are already informed what is fit for you further to do, whatsoever tends to the *Promotion* of *Wine*, and to the *Manufacture* of *Linnen* in these parts, I cannot but wish you to promote it; and the *French People* are most likely in both respects to answer that design: To that end I would advise you to send for some *Thousands* of *Plants* out of *France*, with some able *Vineros*, and *People* of the other *Vocation*: but because I believe you have been entertained with this and some other profitable Subjects by your *President*, I shall add no more, but to assure you, that I am heartily inclined to advance your *just Interest*, and that you will always find me

Your Kind and Cordial Friend,

Philadelphia, the 16th of the
6th Moneth, call'd August,
1683.

William Penn.

A short Advertisement Upon the Scituation and Extent of the CITY of PHILADELPHIA

And the ensuing *PLAT-FORM* thereof.

By the *Surveyor General*.

THe City of *Philadelphia* now extends in *Length*, from River to River, *two Miles*, and in *Breadth* near a *Mile*; and the *Governour*, as a further manifestation of his Kindness to the *Purchasers*, hath freely given them their respective *Lots* in the City, without defalcation of any their *Quantities* of purchased *Lands*; and as its now placed and modelled between *two Navigable Rivers* upon a Neck of Land, and that Ships may ride in good *Anchorage*, in *six or eight Fathom Water* in both Rivers, close to the City, and the Land of the City level, dry and whollom; such a *Scituation* is scarce to be parallel'd.

The *Model* of the City appears by a small *Draught* now made, and may hereafter, when time permits, be augmented; and because there is not room to express the *Purchasers Names* in the *Draught*, I have therefore drawn *Directions of Reference*, by way of *Numbers*, whereby may be known each mans *Lot* and *Place* in the City.

The City is so ordered now, by the *Governour's* Care and *Prudence*, that it hath a *Front* to each River, one half at *Delaware*, the other at *Skullkill*; and though all this cannot make way for small *Purchasers* to be in the *Fronts*, yet they are placed in the next *Streets*, contiguous to each *Front*, viz. all *Purchasers* of one *Thousand Acres*, and upwards, have the *Fronts* (and the *High-street*) and to every five *Thousand Acres* *Purchase*, in the *Front* about an *Acre*, and the smaller *Purchasers* about half an *Acre* in the backward *Street*; by which means the least hath room enough for *House*, *Garden* and small *Orchard*, to the great Content and Satisfaction of all here concerned.

The City (as the *Model* shews) consists of a large *Front-street* to each River, and a *High-street* (near the middle) from *Front* (or River) to *Front*, of one hundred foot broad, and a broad *Street* in the middle of the City, from *side* to *side*, of the like breadth. In the Center of the City, is a *Square* of *Ten Acres*; at each Angle are to be Houses for publick *Affairs*, as a *Meeting-House*, *Assembly* or *State-House*, *Market-House*, *School-House*, and several other Buildings for *Publick Concerns*. There are also in each Quarter of the City, a *Square* of eight *Acres*, to be for the like Uses, as the *Moor-fields* in *London*; and eight *Streets* (besides the said *High-street*) that run from *front* to *front*, and twenty *Streets* (besides the broad-street) that run cross the City, from *side* to *side*; all these *Streets* are of fifty Foot breadth.

In each *Number* in the *Draught*, in the *Fronts* and *High-street*, are placed the *Purchasers* of One *Thousand Acres*, and upwards, to make up five *Thousand Acres* *Lot*, both in the said *Fronts* and *High-street*, and the *Numbers* direct to each *Lot*, and where in the City; so that thereby they may know, where their *Concerns* are therein.

The *Front Lots* begin at the *South-ends* of the *Fronts*, by the *Numbers*, and so reach to the *North-ends*, and end at *Number 43*. The *High-street Lots* begin towards the *Fronts* at *Number 44*, and so reach to the Center.

The lesser *Purchasers* begin at *Number 1*, in the second *Streets*, and so proceed by the *Numbers*, as in the *Draught*; the biggest of them being first placed, nearest to the *Fronts*.

Directions

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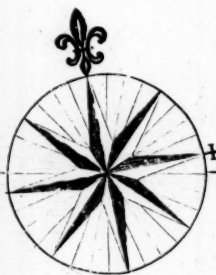
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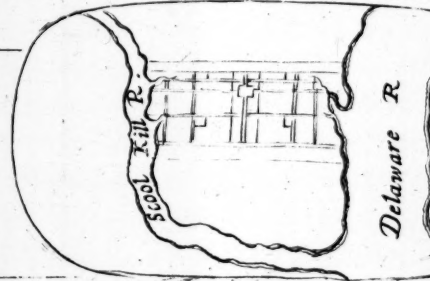
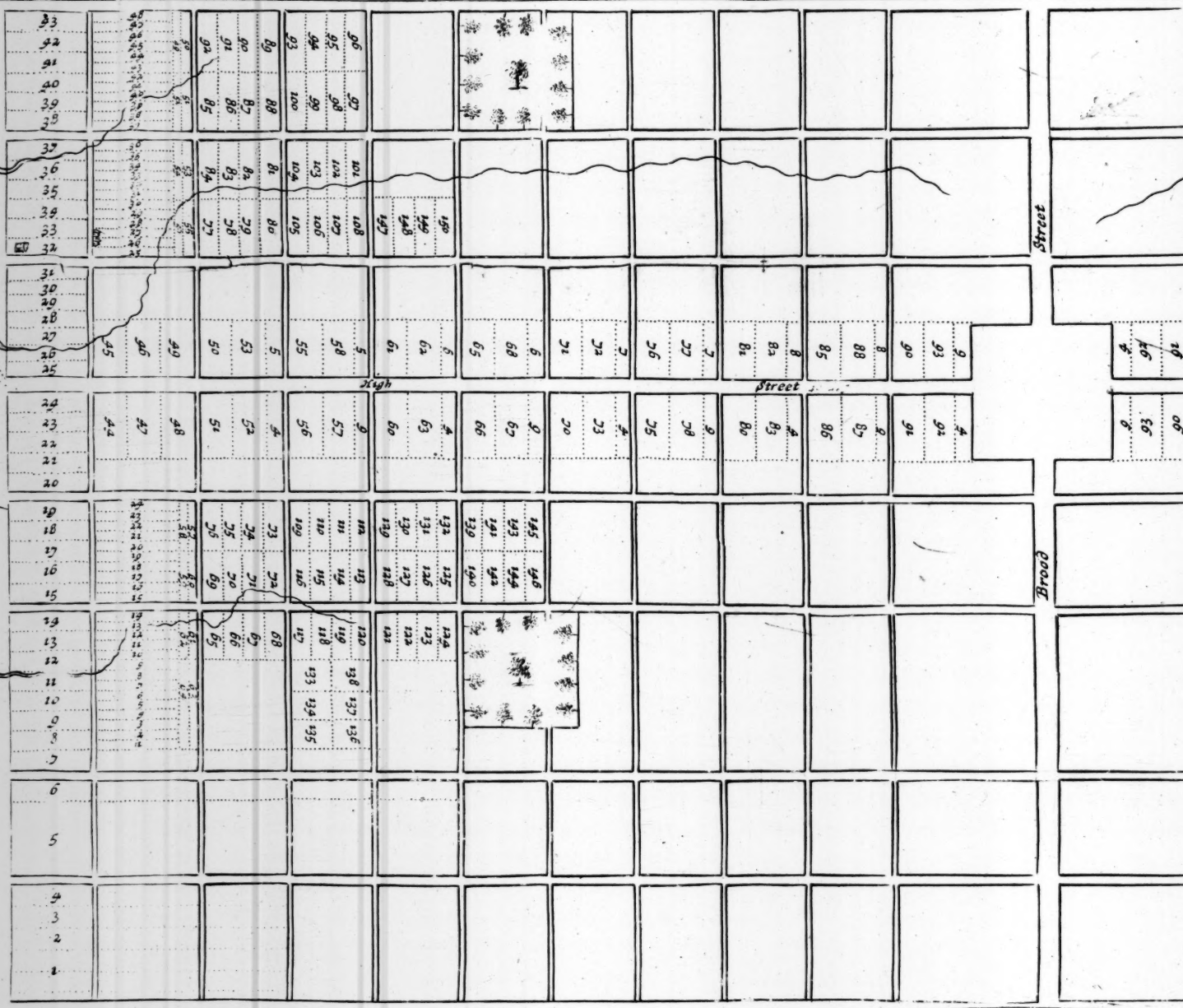
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Faire Mount



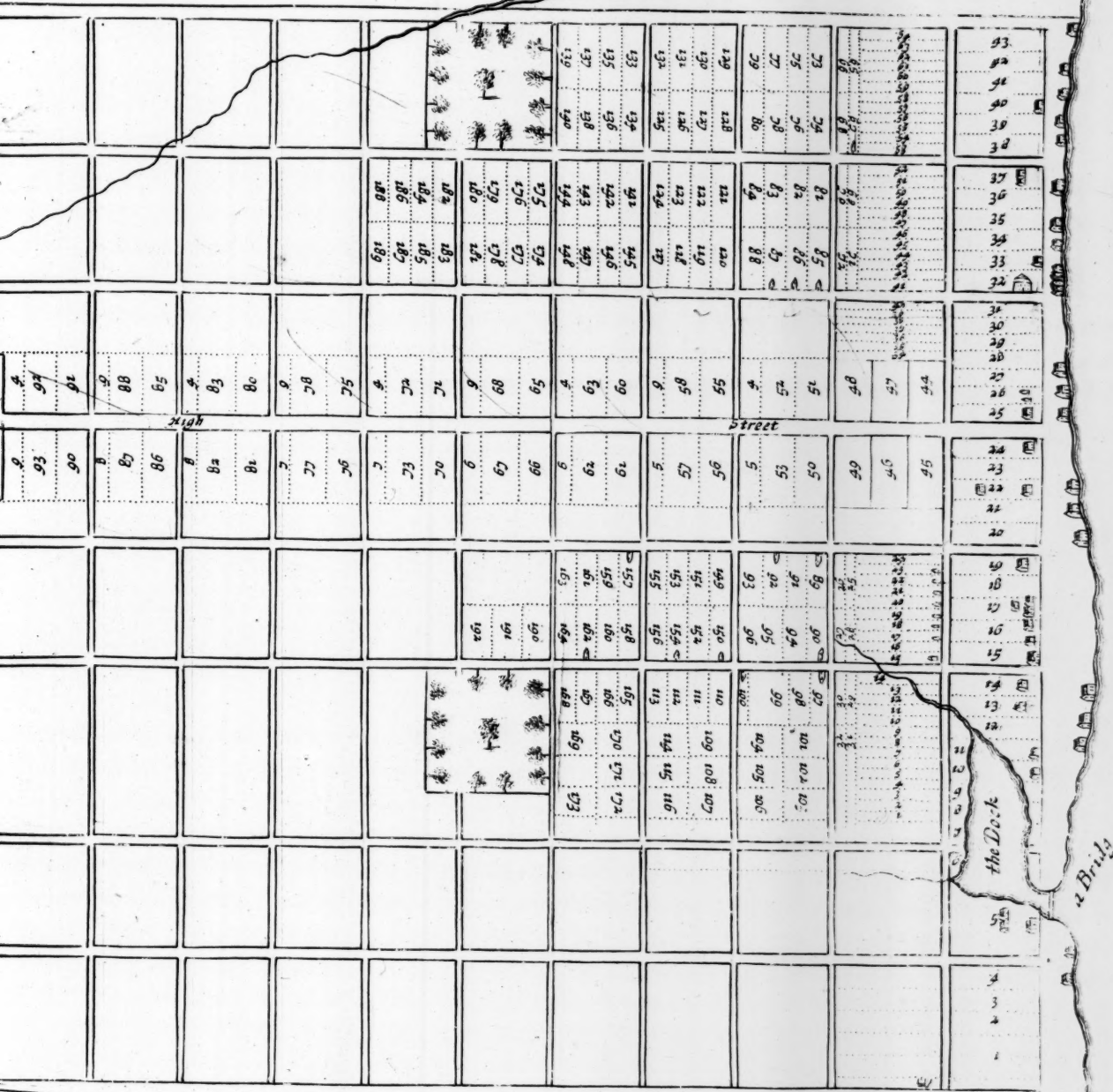
A Portraiture of the City
 of
Philadelphia
 in the Province of
PENNSYLVANIA
 in
 America
 by Thomas Holme Surveyor General
 Sold by John Thornton in the Minors
 and Andrew Sowle in Shoreditch.
 London.



Second Kill River

General.
the Minorities.
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Delaware R



the Bridge

River Delaware

Jersey

22

the Dock

2 Bridges